

**FISHER ISLAND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1ST COMMITTEE MEETING**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES FOR
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2004

FISHER ISLAND TENNIS CENTER

1. Call to Order

George Fernandez, Office of Strategic Business Management, Miami-Dade County, welcomed all present and introduced Jason Rodriguez from his office and County Attorney Craig Collier.

Mr. Fernandez directed attention to the handouts provided showing the resolution by the Miami-Dade County Commission sponsored by Commissioner Bruno Barrero, creating the committee.

Mr. Fernandez explained as follows:

The committee's mandate is to study whether or not it is feasible to incorporate Fisher Island. All meetings will be public meetings and the committee is required to have two public hearings. The difference is a public meeting everyone is invited to attend, but not necessarily have the right to speak to the committee. At a public hearing the attendees have the right to speak to the committee and the committee has to make time for that.

2. Role Call

Present were the following:

Javier Acosta
William Charouhis
Jorge Garcia
Ira Ostrow
Michael Pearce
Carolyn Sakolsky
Robert Vole (Mr. Vole appearing by telephone; not present to establish quorum;
cannot vote on any items as he is not physically present)

3. Election of Officers

It was established that a quorum was present and election proceeded as follows:

George Garcia nominated Ira Ostrow for Chairman – seconded by Javier Acosta; approved by unanimous vote.

Javier Acosta nominated Jorge Garcia for Vice Chair – seconded by Ira Ostrow; all in favor.

George Garcia nominated Javier Acosta for Secretary - seconded by Carolyn Sakolsky; unanimous vote in favor.

Officers Elected: Ira Ostrow, Chairperson; George Garcia, Vice Chairperson; Javier Acosta, Secretary

4. Agenda:

Mr. Collier explained the Sunshine Law. The Sunshine Law requires public meeting place and minutes are taken. He voiced concerns that the ferry guard was not aware that meeting was public and was allowing people in that were on his list. This was taken care of and it was agreed to take precautions to prevent future problems. Mr. Collier reminded the Committee that the law states that two people on the same board cannot discuss an item that is likely to come before them when they are outside the meetings of the committee. This includes at a homeowners association, golf course, etc. It is okay to speak to the public about incorporation issues.

It was advised that all correspondence received by the committee or notes taken must be kept in a file and be available to provide them as public records.

It was explained that conversations between members are prohibited whether email, regular mail, or telephone. Email from constituents should be saved on your computer because those are considered public records.

Comment by Mr. Ostrow: Assuring Mr. Collier that every effort necessary will be made to ensure public access to meetings.

Mr. Fernandez discussed meeting dates on handout. At Mr. Ostrow's request the 9/23/2004 meeting was changed to the week of October 10, 2004; the place of the meeting will be on the island until it is determined if an off island location would be best.

Mr. Fernandez asked if any questions on the handouts or on the resolution.

Carol Sakolsky asks for clarification of the map, as she was unsure of boundaries as indicated on the map. Mr. Fernandez explained the differences in jurisdiction and

the areas covered under Fisher Island Incorporation and what area Fisher Island would seek to annex. She was also concerned if they had enough voters on Fisher Island for incorporation. It was agreed the number of voters was not an issue at this time.

Ms. Sakolsky was also concerned about the costs of incorporation such as voting, etc. Mr. Fernandez explained that if the vote turns out to be yes, the new municipality will be charged for the election.

Mr. Fernandez reviewed the information handouts and briefly explained each item so that everyone has a general understanding of what the items are.

Mr. Fernandez explained that one of the reasons for providing the committee with a copy of the UMSA budget now, is that one of the committee's tasks will be to put together a pro forma budget for the new municipality and those numbers will help to do that.

Mr. Ostrow directed himself to Mr. Posey, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Dolkart and explained that it is the desire of the incorporation committee when it was created and the desire of incorporation, to recognize that Fisher Island is an extremely unique community and it has under the umbrella a number of serious but separate families including: 700 residents, Fisher Island Club, Fisher Island Community Association, and Fisher Island Holdings, LLC. Therefore, everyone's position has to be respected and will be respected without desire to override or interfere with any of the families' privacy, integrity or self-governing factor. The most important factor of this incorporation process is to let all these families operate under their own accord without interference, but be in a position to save millions of dollars for the community and to govern its spending. As Chairman, Mr. Ostrow wanted this statement to be a matter of public record and to reassure everyone of that as the committee moves forward.

Mr. Rodriguez explained that traditional meeting advertisement comes out every Monday in the Miami Herald, page 5B, for this and other MACs.

5. Public Questions and Comments:

Michael Posey, Director of Development, Fisher Island Holdings, LLC., made a comment for clarification that the perimeter road of the island was dedicated to the City of Miami Beach in 1926, it is a public roadway. The whole perimeter road that goes around the golf course other than when it dips to the meeting location and tennis courts, is a public roadway dedicated to the City of Miami Beach that they have actually paid for and landscaped back then. It's not Dade County but it is a

public roadway of the City of Miami Beach.

Another public observer asked how the roadway described by Mr. Posey can affect the process. Mr. Fernandez responded that this should not affect the process. They can object, but there's really nothing they can do.

6. **Next Meeting:** October 20, 2004
7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Ostrow called a motion for meeting adjournment, it was motioned and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.